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**NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505**

NFIB-82.4/7  
11 June 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD

FROM: Walter Elder  
Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Soviet Missile System Designators 

25X1

REFERENCE: NFIB-82.4/6, 24 July 1982

The attached memorandum from the Chairman, WSSIC, which supersedes the reference, is forwarded for your information and retention.



WALTER ELDER

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Attachment  
As Stated

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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
**Weapon and Space Systems Intelligence Committee**

Attachment to  
 NFIB-82.4/7  
 11 June 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : Soviet Missile System Designators 

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REFERENCE: NFIB-82.4/6, 24 July 1980

1. The Weapon and Space Systems Intelligence Committee (WSSIC) has reviewed and updated the reference. The attachment supersedes the list of Soviet missile system designators contained in the reference.

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2. New and modified designators assigned since 24 July 1980 are as follows:

Memorandum for HoldersAction

| No. | date             |   |
|-----|------------------|---|
| 1.  | 15 August 1980   | SA-X-12 designated  |
| 2.  | 3 September 1980 | SS-17 Mod 3 assigned<br>SS-19 Mod 3       "<br>SS-N-8 Mod 2       " |
| 3.  | 3 December 1980  | SS-NX-20 designated   |
| 4.  | 5 March 1981     | DR-1, 2, 3 designated   |
| 5.  | 8 April 1981     | AS-X-13 designated<br>SA-10 operational                             |
| 6.  | 29 April 1981    | SA-14 designated<br>SS-NX-21 designated                             |
| 7.  | 5 November 1981  | SS-NX-22 designated   |
| 8.  | 20 November 1981 | SS-N-17/Y-II<br>operational   |
| 9.  | 8 January 1982   | SS-N-19 operational   |

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Memorandum for HoldersAction

| No. | date             |  |
|-----|------------------|--|
| 10. | 28 January 1982  | AS-7a,b assigned<br>AS-11 operational<br>AS-12 operational |
| 11. | 25 February 1982 | SA-N-6 operational   |
| 12. | 16 March 1982    | SA-6a,b assigned<br>AS-14a,b assigned                      |
| 13. | 13 April 1982    | AA-9 operational   |



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Attachment:  
As Stated  
(1 June 1982)

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SOVIET MISSILE SYSTEM DESIGNATORS

1. The Weapon and Space Systems Intelligence Committee (WSSIC) has the responsibility for assigning letter-number designators to foreign weapon systems. The National Foreign Intelligence Board is advised when new designators are assigned. Guidelines governing the assignment and use of Soviet missile system designators are formulated by WSSIC in [REDACTED]

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2. The assignment and use of designators are governed by the following:

a. A designator is assigned when it becomes apparent that a system is engaged in a viable system flight test development program leading to operational use. To distinguish it from an operationally deployed system, an "X" is inserted between the letters and the number; for example, the SS-X-00. If it is a naval system, an "N" is also included (e.g., SS-NX-00).

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b. The letter "X" is removed from the designator when the system is considered to have reached an operationally deployed status. [REDACTED]

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c. Variants of surface-to-surface ballistic missile systems which significantly affect threat characteristics are assigned "Mod" numbers. Earlier systems were assigned letter suffixes which have been retained (i.e., SS-1a, SS-1b, and SS-1c). [REDACTED]

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d. Letter suffixes for variants in the other missile categories (e.g., SS-N-2a, SA-2b) will continue to be used. For these weapon systems, letter suffixes will be used to identify subsystem variants, e.g., guidance, payload, or significant performance differences. [REDACTED]

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e. Assignment of missile nicknames is the responsibility of the Air Standardization Coordinating Committee (ASCC). [REDACTED]

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f. In the enclosed list, the second column reads: ASCC-assigned missile nickname (if any)/Type of system (Classification). In the surface-to-air and antiballistic missile system sections, the second column reads: ASCC-assigned missile nickname (if any)/engagement radar nickname (if any) (Classification). [REDACTED]

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g. Classification guidelines:

(1) All letter-number designators (e.g., SS-4) when used alone are unclassified. ☐

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(2) The combination of a letter-number designator with an ASCC-assigned missile nickname or a radar nickname takes on the classification of the nickname. ☐

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(3) Missile systems with test range designators (e.g., the NE-04 launched from Nenoksa, TT-06 launched from Tyuratam, KY-12 launched from Kapustin Yar) are assigned ☐ normally at the onset of a test program. They are classified according to source. They are replaced by an unclassified WSSIC-assigned letter-number designator when the system's role and characteristics are better understood. ☐

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(4) Although individual WSSIC-assigned designators are unclassified, the entire list is classified SECRET. ☐

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